

9D-HL-19210  
PATENT

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Abi-Habib et al.

Art Unit: 1746

Serial No.: 09/411,496

Examiner: Stinson, Frankie L.

Filed: October 4, 1999

JUL 08 2003  
TC 1700For: WASHING MACHINE BRAKE CAM  
ACTUATOR WITH INTERRUPTED  
RING

FAX RECEIVED

## RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Mail Stop Non Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

In response to the Office Action dated June 18, 2003, Applicants elect, with traverse, for prosecution in this application all claims that belong to Group II, i.e., claims 3-20.

A restriction to either invention I, consisting of claims 1 and 2 drawn to a method for reducing noise, classified in class 29, subclass 428, or invention II, consisting of claims 3-20, drawn to a brake for a washing machine, classified in class 68, subclass 23.3, was imposed. In response, Applicants elect with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group II, claims 3-20.

The requirement for election is traversed because the inventions set out by the claims in Groups I and II are clearly related. Reconsideration of the restriction requirement imposed under 35 U.S.C. § 121 is respectfully requested. The restriction requirement is traversed because the

9D-HL-19210  
PATENT

inventions set out by the claims in Groups I and II are clearly related. Applicants submit that a thorough search and examination of either claim group would be relevant to the examination of the other group and would not be a serious burden on the Examiner. Additionally, requirements for election are not mandatory under 35 U.S.C. §121. Accordingly, reconsideration of the election requirement is requested.

FAX RECEIVED

JUL 08 2003

TC 1700

Respectfully Submitted,



Thomas M. Fisher  
Registration No. 47,564  
ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP  
One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740  
(314) 621-5070